

Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 209776

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:GR, BE, PFOR

SUBJECT:BELGIAN INTEREST IN GREEK-NATO RELATIONSHIP

1. ON INSTRUCTIONS, BELGIAN MINISTER CAHEN CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LAINGEN SEPTEMBER 2 TO INQUIRE ABOUT CURRENT U.S. POSITION ON GREEK-NATO RELATIONS. IN RESPONSE LAINGEN NOTED THAT GREEK PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE THEODOROPOULOS IS SCHEDULED TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT TO THE NAC SEPTEMBER 17 AND THAT THE DPC WILL MEET SAME DAY TO DISCUSS PROCEDURAL STEPS INVOLVED IN THIS QUESTION. OUR POSITION AT THIS STAGE IS SIMPLY TO HEAR WHAT THE GREEKS HAVE TO SAY AND THEN TO CONSULT CLOSELY WITH OTHER NATO MEMBERS ON WHAT SUBSEQUENT STEPS MAY BE APPROPRIATE. OUR HOPE IS THAT GREECE WILL EVENTUALLY RETURN TO FULL PARTICIPATION IN NATO, AND THEREFORE WE WISH TO AVOID ANY MOVES WHICH WOULD RENDER SUCH RETURN MORE DIFFICULT LATER. WE BELIEVE THAT CARAMANLIS WOULD LIKE TO RESTORE GREECE TO FULL MEMBERSHIP IN THE ALLIANCE, BUT THAT ONLY A SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS ISSUE AND AN IMPROVEMENT IN GREEK-TURKISH

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RELATIONS WOULD MAKE IT POLITICALLY FEASIBLE FOR HIM TO DO

SO.

2. LAINGEN ALSO NOTED THAT WE HAVE KEPT THE GREEK-NATO
ISSUE CLOSELY IN MIND IN THE US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS

AND THAT WE HAVE FRANKLY TOLD THE GREEKS THAT CERTAIN
ASPECTS OF OUR BILATERAL SECURITY RELATIONSHIP COULD NOT
BE RESOLVED UNTIL THERE WAS A CLARIFICATION OF THE GREEK
POSITION IN NATO. ROBINSON

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